The Story of Two Blind Mothers

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Chapter 1: The Tale of Two Blind Mothers

Moral Parables of the Israelites: A Lesson in Divine Justice

According to Ibn al-Jawzi (may Allah have mercy on him), a Hadith mentions that among the Children of Israel, astonishing and remarkable events took place. These incidents, when narrated, offer moral insight and life lessons. Ibn al-Jawzi begins with the tale of two elderly women.

A Beloved Wife and a Righteous Mother:

There once lived a man among the Israelites who deeply loved his wife. His mother, on the other hand, was a virtuous and elderly woman.

Coincidentally, the mother of his wife was also aged, but of a frivolous and mischievous nature. Both women—his mother and his mother-in-law—were blind.

The man's mother-in-law, owing to her capricious temperament, frequently incited her daughter—his wife—against her mother-in-law.

As a result, daily conflicts and intense disputes arose between the daughter-in-law and the old, pious mother.

Cruelty in the Wilderness: Abandoning One's Parent

Eventually, the man grew weary of the continuous strife. In desperation, he took his frail and elderly mother and abandoned her in a barren, uninhabited wilderness with no water or sustenance.

His intent was clear: that she perish there alone, or be devoured by wild beasts.

As he left his patient and helpless mother in her destitute condition, and as the wilderness beasts began to surround her, a divine messenger—an angel—appeared before her.

A Divine Inquiry:

Angel:

"Old lady, what are these sounds you are hearing?"

Mother:

"They are beautiful sounds—camels, cows, and goats are calling."

Angel:

"Very well. By the will of Allah, so shall it be."

A Miraculous Reward: Mercy for the Pious

With those words, the angel departed. The next morning, the entire forest was miraculously filled with camels, cows, and goats.

The son, feeling curious the following day, decided to check on the fate of the mother he had abandoned.

Upon reaching the site, he was astonished to witness the whole forest teeming with livestock. Bewildered, he approached his mother.

A Mother's Counsel:

Son:

"Mother, what am I seeing? Please tell me what happened here!"

Mother:

"My son, you disobeyed me and obeyed your wife. Allah has rewarded me for my patience."

Shamed and deeply remorseful, the man returned home with his mother, along with the divine bounty she had received.

Jealousy Takes Root: A Dangerous Demand

Witnessing these blessings, his wife became consumed with jealousy and could not tolerate her mother-in-law’s elevated status.

A Wife's Ultimatum:

Wife:

"I will not be content with you unless you take my blind mother to the same wilderness where you left your own mother."

Reluctantly, the man complied. He escorted his wife's mother to the same deserted place and left her there.

A Different Fate: Divine Justice Unfolds

When evening fell and wild beasts began to encircle the old woman, the same angel appeared once more.

A Second Inquiry:

Angel:

"What are these sounds you are hearing?"

Mother-in-law:

"These are the cries of beasts who have come to tear me apart."

Angel:

"By the will of Allah, so shall it be."

With that, the angel left, and the wild beasts mauled her to death.

A Grim Discovery: Truth Laid Bare

The next morning, the wife once again insisted her husband investigate the fate of her mother.

A Wife's Assumption:

Wife:

"Go and see what my mother has gathered, just like yours did."

She imagined her mother, too, would have amassed flocks of animals.

But when the man reached the place, he found neither animals nor signs of life—only shattered bones scattered across the wilderness. He gathered the remains and brought them back to his wife.

Shocked at the grim evidence of her error in judgment, the wife was overwhelmed with grief. Eventually, she succumbed to sorrow and died.